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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 20 February 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 1 to 16 February 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 15, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 20 February 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 1 to 16 February 2009

Air violations

On 3 February 2009, between 0633 and 1300 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and heading north. It circled over Beirut before leaving over Naqurah.

On 4 February 2009:

- Between 0930 and 1120 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the occupied Shab'a Farms. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b;
- Between 1150 and 1210 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over the sea off Naqurah. They proceeded north as far as Damur before turning back south and leaving over the sea off Naqurah.

On 6 February 2009:

- Between 0707 and 1850 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over the Bekaa and the South before leaving over Kafr Killa;
- Between 0945 and 1110 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the occupied Shab'a Farms. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b.

On 9 February 2009, between 1915 and 1920 hours, an Israeli enemy warplane flew at high altitude over the Tibnin area.

On 12 February 2009:

- Between 0640 and 1010 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over areas of the South before leaving over Naqurah;
- Between 1000 and 1125 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Aytarun and heading north. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving over Rumaysh.

On 14 February 2009:

- Between 0655 and 1907 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft flew over Alma al-Sha'b; it proceeded to circle over areas of the South before leaving over Naqurah;
- Between 1120 and 1238 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Dayr Mimas. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving over Alma al-Sha'b.

On 15 February 2009, between 0650 and 1340 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah and heading north. It circled over areas of the South before leaving over Rumaysh.

Sea violations

On 3 February 2009, at 1855 hours, an Israeli enemy gunboat directed a searchlight towards Lebanese territorial waters between the first and eighth buoys for 12 minutes, to a distance of some 100 metres. The enemy repeated the exercise for one minute between 2100 and 2230 hours.

On 5 February 2009:

- At 1822 hours, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight for five seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters between the first and fifth buoys, to a distance of approximately 200 metres. At 1835 hours, the enemy directed a searchlight from a naval vessel towards the same area;
- At 1940 hours, the Israeli enemy fired several bursts of gunfire over a Lebanese fishing vessel located near the third buoy, approximately 50 metres inside Lebanese territorial waters.

On 9 February 2009, at 1815 hours, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight for four seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters at the second buoy, to a distance of approximately 100 metres.

On 14 February 2009, at 1925 hours, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight for five seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters between the fourth and fifth buoys.

On 16 February 2009, at 1848 hours, from its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy thrice directed a searchlight for five seconds towards Lebanese territorial waters at the first buoy, to a distance of approximately 100 metres.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 9 February 2009, between 1115 and 1200 hours, the Israeli enemy fired several bursts of light-weapons fire from its Radar position inside the occupied Shab'a Farms towards the perimeter of that position.

On 12 February 2009, at 1645 hours, an enemy Merkava tank atop an earthen berm at the restricted position (Yarun) was observed directing its cannon towards Lebanese territory.

Israeli activities

On 2 February 2009, at 1922 hours, within the naval operations area of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), an Israeli enemy Sa'ar 4.5 gunboat remained in a position 25 nautical miles outside Lebanese territorial waters opposite Beirut for a period of one hour. The enemy gunboat left the naval operations area at 2138 hours. At that same time, an unmanned aircraft circled over the area before leaving at 2039 hours. It is believed that the aircraft was operating in coordination with the aforementioned enemy gunboat.